

***National Highway  
Traffic Safety Administration  
Research and Development  
Programs Public Meeting***

**Best Western Gateway**

**International Hotel 9191 Wickham, Romulus, Michigan**

**November 14, 2001 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

# Agenda



## 1. Introduction

- A. R&D Web Page
- B. Side Air Bag Public Meeting ( IIHS)
- C. IIHS Blue Ribbon Panel On Advanced Airbags
- D. Budget

## 2. 2000 Annual Assessment

## 3. Development of Surrogate Child Restraints for Air Bag System Testing

# *Agenda ( continued )*



4. **Event Data Recorders – Update on Agency Activities**
5. **TREAD – Wear and Underinflation Issues and Data**
6. **Status of Advanced Frontal Crash Protection Research Program**
7. **Responses to Written Questions**

# *R&D Web Page*

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

# *Side Airbag Public Meeting On October 25*



- **NHTSA Administrator Wrote to Industry in December 1998 Expressed Concerns About Risk to Children**
- **Urged Industry to Ensure Safety of Vehicle Products**
- **Industry Established Technical Working Group in July 1999 - IIHS Chairs the Group**
- **Automobile Manufacturers and Suppliers Are Members**
- **NHTSA Is an Observer**
- **The Group Developed a Set of Test Procedures by December 1999**
- **NHTSA Evaluated the Procedures Including Certain Variations**

## *2 NHTSA Presentations*



- **Real World Experience of Side Airbags in Crashes**
- **Evaluation of Injury Risk from Side Airbags**
- **Both Presentations are on NHTSA Website**

# *Special Crash Investigations*



- **55 Cases Investigated**
- **Includes 12 Make/models**
- **Chest, Head and Chest/Head Combination Bags and Window Curtains Included**
  - Seat and Door Mounted Systems
  - ITS and Curtains

# *Conclusions from SCI*



- **No Fatalities Attributed to Deployment of Side Airbags**
- **Only One Serious Injury Due to Deployment Found**
- **No Children Have Been Seriously Injured in the Cases Investigated**
- **Head Bags Were Found to Be Successful in Mitigating Head Injury**



# *Observations From Evaluation of Industry's Test Procedures*



- **The Industry Test Procedures Able to Discriminate a Variety of Airbag Systems**
- **Side Airbags Generally Produce Low Dummy Injury Measures When Dummies Are in Position**
- **Dummy Injury Measures Exceeded the Established Threshold Levels in Some Positions in a Few Vehicles**
- **Summary Report on the Research Will Be Available by End of December**

# IIHS Blue Ribbon Panel On Advanced Airbags



## ➤ NCSA Partnership with Alliance

- ❖ Add 3 additional PSUs to the NASS
  - Frontal crashes involving late model vehicles with advanced or redesigned occupant protection systems
- [www.highwaysafety.org/presentations/brp](http://www.highwaysafety.org/presentations/brp)



# *NHTSA Budget*



- **Operations and Research Budget**
  - ~\$207,000,000.
  - Staff ~600
  
- **Grants**
  - ~\$223,000,000.

# R&D Contract Budget \$ Thousands



- Nat'l Center for Statistics & Analysis
- Crashworthiness
- Vehicle Research & Test Center
- Biomechanics
- Crash Avoidance
- PNGV/Technology Transfer

